

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 1395 without my signature.

Mexico is an extremely important economic and cultural partner to California. Our proximity and shared history unite us. The annual Border Governors' Conference provides the ten border states in Mexico and the United States a cooperative forum for discussing complex and important cross-border issues. Since its start, the organization has enhanced joint border efforts addressing agriculture, border crossings, education, economic development, energy, environment, health, human trafficking, tourism, and border security issues.

I welcome the Legislature's involvement in my Administration's activities related to the annual Border Governors' Conference. Bi-national work groups have formed on topics ranging from agriculture to education to border security and almost every cabinet agency plays a role in the activities of the conference throughout the year. The conference has spurred many accomplishments, but more work is yet to be done to achieve our shared goals.

Unfortunately, this bill's requirement for a California-Mexico Relations Ten Year Plan will not help accomplish those goals. Many issues have arisen and continue to arise that could not be foreseen ten years ago. The Border Governors' Conference provides the flexibility to address timely issues. My Administration will continue to pursue avenues of common interest and mutual assistance and will do so as they need to be addressed.

Sincerely,

Arnold Schwarzenegger